

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A thin plate storage container comprising:

a container main body which contains and supports a plurality of thin plates;

a cover member which closes the container main body, and which keeps an interior of the container main body clean; and

a double-seal mechanism on the cover member that seals the interior of said container main body, wherein

the double-seal mechanism comprises:

an inner seal piece attached to a peripheral edge of the cover member, abutting against the container main body, and thereby sealing the interior of the container main body; and

an outer seal piece attached to an outside of the inner seal piece on the peripheral edge of the cover member, abutting against the container main body, and thereby sealing an abutment portion between the inner seal piece and the container main body.

2. (Original) The thin plate storage container according to claim 1, wherein

the inner seal piece is formed into an annular plate, and an inner end portion of the inner seal piece in a normal direction is supported by the cover member and extends outward in the normal direction,

a seal pressing section that abuts against and presses the outside of the inner seal piece is formed annularly on an inner side surface of the peripheral edge of the cover member, and

a seal reception section is formed annularly to be opposed to the seal pressing section, the seal reception section abutting against the inner seal piece, which is put between the seal

reception section and the seal pressing section, from inside while the cover member is attached to the container main body.

3. (Original) The thin plate storage container according to claim 1, wherein

a bulge section is formed over an entire periphery of an outer end portion of the inner seal piece of the double-seal mechanism in the normal direction, and

a fitting groove, into which the bulge section is fitted, is formed in the seal reception section of the container main body.

4. (Original) A thin plate storage container comprising:

a container main body which contains and supports a plurality of thin plates;

a cover member which closes the container main body, and which keeps an interior of the container main body clean; and

cover member fixing means, provided at the cover member, for fixing the cover member to the container main body, wherein

the cover member fixing means comprises:

a latch shaft linearly projected from and retracted toward the cover member; and

a latch roller rotatably attached to a tip end of the latch shaft, and

a cover member retracting surface is provided on the container main body, the cover member retracting surface being formed to be inclined to be open outward toward the latch roller, abutting against the latch roller by extension of the latch shaft, and retracting the cover member toward the container main body while rotating.

5. (Original) A thin plate storage container comprising:

- a container main body which contains and supports a plurality of thin plates;
- a cover member which closes the container main body, and which keeps an interior of the container main body clean; and
- cover member fixing means, provided at the cover member, for fixing the cover member to the container main body, wherein
  - the cover member fixing means is comprised of a crank mechanism for projecting and retracting an engagement piece from and toward the cover member when rotating,
  - the crank mechanism comprises:
    - a rotary plate directly engaged with the engagement piece and rotating, thereby projecting and retracting the engagement piece; and
    - a support piece supporting rotation of the rotary plate, and
    - the support piece comprises:
      - a pin reception section individually fitting and supporting a plurality of engagement pins provided on the rotary plate while extending the engagement piece from the cover member; and
      - an elastic support section elastically supporting the plurality of pin reception sections, and adjusting the rotary plate to be located at a set angle at a set position.

6. (Currently Amended) The thin plate storage container according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, further having:

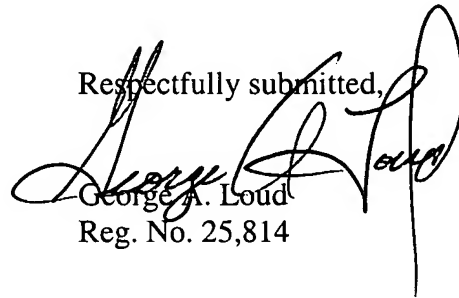
- a small hole provided in the container main body;
- a filter which permits pass of only the air between an inside and an outside of the container main body, and which removes a contaminant; and

a cover provided outside of the filter.

7. (Currently Amended) The thin plate storage container according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein

at an uppermost position of a thin plate support section comprising comb's teeth that support the plurality of thin plates contained in the container main body at certain intervals, respectively, a comb's tooth for supporting another thin plate is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud", is written over the typed name and registration number.

George A. Loud

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Dated: March 10, 2004

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